

Dissonant Voices

Teaching Untaught Histories

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Golden Gate
National Recreation Area



Institute Description and Resources

Our 3 day institute will introduce and/or reacquaint you with place-based and inquiry learning in national parks. Our goal is to provide you with practical and useful ideas for implementing Social Studies field-based education through learning activities and student-generated research.

July 26–28, 2016

Dissonant Voices is framed by the essential question “What’s at stake when we teach untaught histories?” We have chosen topics rooted in the GGNRA and Angel Island State Park and emblematic of larger social issues. You and your colleagues will have the opportunity to consider national events and issues within a local perspective. The institute will be held at the Presidio of San Francisco and Angel Island.

Award of \$300 Stipend

Infuse more inquiry in your classroom! This workshop offers you a practical approach in using historic and community resources to provoke students to pose meaningful questions, apply critical thinking skills, and build their own historic interpretations.

How to Apply

Applications will be accepted through May 10th or until workshop capacity is reached. A refundable application fee of \$50 must accompany your application. The fee is refundable upon completion of the workshop.

CONTINUE READING BELOW ➡

Day 1

How can former military sites be places to ponder peace?

Presidio of San Francisco



Rik Penn, NPS Park Ranger and veteran of the 101st Airborne Division in the Hue, Phu Bai and Ashau Valley regions near the DMZ during 1968, sets the stage with opening remarks examining the nature of free speech and the U.S. Military Code of Justice.

The Presidio 27

Few Americans know that there was a broad and sustained movement by soldiers and sailors to end the war in Vietnam that was suppressed by the military and the news media. Probably the most famous incident of stockade resistance occurred at the Presidio in 1967, where 27 prisoners staged a sit-down during morning formation to protest the shotgun slaying of a fellow prisoner by a stockade guard. The men were charged with mutiny that often carries a death penalty during times of war. The trial lasted for years. What did it mean to be a dissident while serving in the armed forces? What parallels do we see today during the ongoing War on Terror? Rik Penn, a Pro-Peace and Anti-War activist, wrote for anti-war newspapers and was featured in the documentary "Sir, No Sir," a groundbreaking look at GI resistance movements.

No Blood For Oil

In May 1991 – just after the first Gulf War -- the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce and the military jointly sponsored the Armed Forces Day Parade in San Francisco to celebrate "our victory" in Operation Desert Storm. One of the groups that accepted the invitation to march was the Veterans Speakers Alliance, an organization of vets from U.S. wars in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and the Gulf. As they approached the reviewing stand just inside the Presidio, where Governor Pete Wilson, San Francisco Mayor Art Agnos and other government and military dignitaries were seated, they unfurled their banners and placards. Their messages read "Veterans Say No War," "No Blood for Oil," and "Study War No More." They were immediately jumped on by Military Police. Paul Cox, a Vietnam veteran and an organizer of the protest, and offers a first-person account of this little known event and the subsequent lawsuit over free speech and censorship.

Day 1

Presidio of San Francisco

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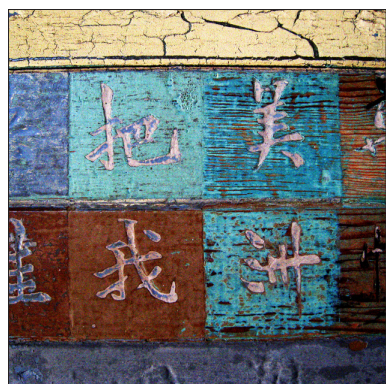
Living Poetry

On Dec. 12, 1884, the War Department designated nine acres, including the site of the old post cemetery, as San Francisco National Cemetery. Located in the Presidio, it was the first national cemetery established on the West Coast and, as such, marks the growth and development of a system of national cemeteries extending beyond the battlefields of the Civil War. We venture to the cemetery to engage in an interdisciplinary program designed for high school students. Through the lens of the heart wrenching poem "The Young Dead Soldiers" by Archibald MacLeish, students have the opportunity to understand the outcomes of war, and make connections and comparisons to their own lives, belief systems, and inner voice. Mary Maya, former high school teacher for 17 years in San Francisco, and currently the Heritage Education Specialist for the Presidio Trust, shares her compelling field program.

Day 2

Angel Island

How do we discuss immigration during these times of racist rhetoric and exclusion?



Grace Morizawa, former principal, classroom teacher, and current Education Coordinator for the National Japanese American Historical Society, facilitates a day in which we examine the enduring legacy and current political ramifications of U.S. immigration policies.

Angel Island – Ellis Island of the West?

Join Grant Din, Community Relations Director for the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation, in an historical inquiry focused on the Chinese immigration that passed through the Angel Island Immigration Station. Was Angel Island the Ellis Island of the West? How did the Chinese Exclusion Act define the establishment of the Angel Island Immigration Station? This was the point of entry for most of the approximately 175,000 Chinese immigrants and to a lesser extent other immigrants from the Pacific Rim including Russians and East Indians who came to the United States between 1910 and 1940. Most of Chinese were detained on Angel Island for as little as two weeks or as much as six months. A few remained on the island for as long as two years.

Day 2

Angel Island

continued.

Island: Poetry and History of Chinese Immigrants on Angel Island

Genny Lim, award-winning poet and playwright, will lead us on a gallery tour reading the Chinese poems on the walls of the Angel Island Immigration Station. Along the way she'll invite your comments and questions sparked by the poems. The poems are the most visible and durable testimony to the suffering of Chinese immigrants as they waited through long interrogations and corroboration from outside sources in order to be released. The poems couched in classical allegories and historical references poured forth the aspirations of the immigrants with their anger and sadness at the injustice of their initial reception by America. Genny will also read her poetry and prose.

Contradictions of a Conservationist

William Kent, champion of conservation, friend of John Muir, who donated Muir Woods National Monument, is revered for introducing the 1916 legislation that founded the National Park Service. As we celebrate the Centennial of the NPS, we look beneath the traditional narrative to examine the racist underpinnings of this complex story – Kent was elected to the U.S. Congress on a virulent anti-Asian platform whose language mirrors political campaigns of today. Is it possible to fully understand the historic role of an important figure like Kent without recognizing his advocacy for bigoted, xenophobic policies? Where do environmental activism and social justice intertwine and when do they conflict? Elaine Elinson, participant in many Dissonant Voices and author of *Wherever There's a Fight: How Runaway Slaves, Suffragists, Immigrants, Strikers, and Poets Shaped Civil Liberties in California*, shines the spotlight on William and Elizabeth Kent.

Day 3

Presidio of San Francisco

How does the exposure to counter or alternative narratives deepen our historical understanding?



Milton Reynolds, a participant in many Dissonant Voices and Senior Program Associate at Facing History and Ourselves, guides our concluding day as we look at border politics, deportation, and global migration.

The Everlasting Bridges Case

For more than 20 years, Australian-born labor leader Harry Bridges was under constant government surveillance and subject to several deportation and denaturalization proceedings. The "Everlasting Bridges Case" went twice before the U.S. Supreme Court until Bridges was finally vindicated in 1953. How and why did the U.S. government and corporate

Day 3

Presidio of San Francisco

continued.

employers use immigration law and the legal system to confront a powerful labor union and its leadership? Robin Walker, a participant in many Dissonant Voices and Education Director, Librarian and Archivist for the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, takes us to the Cold War and back again.

Climates Without Borders

Scientists, politicians, and community organizers across the globe have declared Climate Change as the single greatest threat to our safety and future. What happens when you can't go home? What happens when a changing climate moves across a political border? If you don't like the weather, you wait. But if you can't live with the climate, you migrate. Do we all have the option to migrate? How have communities existed with past changes in climate? Roxi Farwell, NPS Park Ranger, geologist, and former classroom teacher, and Aracely Montero, NPS Park Ranger, look at the ominous relationship between climate, politics, and the plight of refugees.

Making the Chinese Mexican

In March 1916, when General John Pershing entered Chihuahua, Mexico, to capture Francisco "Pancho" Villa, his foray yielded little in terms of achieving its original aim. It did, however, prompt Pershing to resettle 524 Chinese sutlers in American border towns. Dr. Grace Peña Delgado, historian of North American borders and Mexican history, addresses this relatively unknown history and, importantly, places it in conversation with broader questions of racism, deportation, and how everyday bonds between Chinese and Mexican Americans in southern Arizona mitigated against these forces.

